



MONROE PLANNING COMMISSION

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

TITLE:	Public Hearing: <i>Proposed Amendments to Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Regulations (Monroe Municipal Code Chapter 18.88)</i>
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DATE:		CONTACT:	PRESENTER:	ITEM:
11/28/16		Shana Restall	Shana Restall	Old Business

Discussion: 11/14/2016

Public Hearing: 11/28/2016

Attachments:

1. Draft Ordinance – Proposed Amendments to Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Regulations (MMC Chapter 18.88)
2. Staff Report to the Planning Commission
3. Planning Commission Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

BACKGROUND

In 1991, the Washington legislature passed the Commute Trip Reduction Act (“CTR Act”) and incorporated it into the Washington Clear Air Act (RCW 70.94.521 through 70.94.555). The CTR Act requires certain counties and cities to develop ordinances, plans and programs to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and drive alone commute trips, and thereby reduce vehicle-related air pollution, traffic congestion and energy use. The CTR Act was amended in 2006 by the Commute Trip Reduction Efficiency Act.

The Commute Trip Reduction Act (CTR) is locally initiated and enforced per the requirements of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Once a local jurisdiction has identified a “major employer,” defined as “a private or public employer, including state agencies, that employs one hundred or more full-time employees at a single work site who begin their regular workday between six a.m. and nine a.m. on at least two weekdays for at least twelve continuous months”, the jurisdiction also automatically becomes an affected employer and must comply with the law.

The City of Monroe is subject to these requirements. In 2000, the City of Monroe adopted Ordinance 1192, establishing the City’s Commute Trip Reduction provisions, which are contained in Monroe Municipal Code (MMC) Chapter 18.88 entitled “Commute Trip Reduction (CTR).” To implement MMC Chapter 18.88, the City has historically entered into an agreement with Community Transit to perform requirements and services of the Act on behalf the City of Monroe. Under that arrangement, Community Transit received the City’s share of the State Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) implementation funds.

On September 26, 2014, the CTR board adopted the State CTR Plan 2015 – 2019. It includes new statewide program goals and targets and new options for local goals and targets. Local jurisdictions that have recently been asked by Community Transit to update and amend their CTR regulations to incorporate the new statewide goals and target. The attached draft ordinance incorporates these amendments. For the most part, the amendments are intended to clarify, update definitions, and relate to administration of the program.

PROCESS

Review and Public Notice

Notice of Public Hearing was provided in accordance with MMC 21.40.020, and published in the Monroe Monitor on November 1, 2016. No public comments were received.

A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued on the proposed zoning code amendments on November 1, 2016. The public comment deadline is November 16, 2016, with an appeal deadline of November 23, 2016.

On October 25, 2016, the proposed zoning code amendments were transmitted to the State of Washington for State agency review in accordance with RCW 36.70A.106. Expedited review (14 days rather than 60 days) was requested.

Procedures for Legislative Actions

As the City of Monroe's CTR provisions are included in MMC Title 18 "Planning and Zoning", a Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation to the City Council is required. MMC section 21.20.040(B) requires that the planning commission shall review and make recommendations on the following:

"Amendments to the subdivision code, zoning code, and environmental code (MMC Titles 17 through 20)."

A Planning Commission briefing on the proposed code amendments was held November 14, 2016. Based on the Planning Commission's direction, qualifying CTR employers in Monroe were notified on November 21, 2016 regarding the November 28, 2016 Planning Commission public hearing.

Following the close of the public hearing, the Planning Commission will forward a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council will review the Commission's recommendation no earlier than December 13, 2016. The Council's decision is the City's final action on the proposed code amendments.

Upon adoption of the ordinance by the City Council, final reviews will be conducted by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and the WSDOT CTR Board. The 2017 – 2019 CTR plan contract cycle begins in July 2017.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Open the public hearing
2. Staff presentation and questions from the Planning Commission
3. The Commission accepts testimony from the public
4. Move to close the public testimony portion of the public hearing
5. Rebuttal, response, or clarifying statements by the staff
6. Move to close the public hearing
7. Deliberation by the Planning Commission
8. Move that the Planning Commission adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in Attachment 3 to the Planning Commission agenda bill and recommend that the Monroe City Council APPROVE the proposed amendments to Monroe Municipal Code Chapter 18.88.